

Small Group Study

Devoted to Prayer

From the sermon series, "Christ in You"



The first page of Colossians in a manuscript from the 12th century. It gives its title as **προς κολοσσαεϊς**, "to the Colossians".

SCRIPTURES

Have a different volunteer read each of the following scriptures:

- **Colossians 4:2-4**

"How-to" passages on prayer:

- **Psalm 62:8** (how to be honest in prayer)
- **Psalm 136:1-3, 26** (how to pray)
- **Matthew 6:5-14** (how and what to pray)
- **John 15:7** (the proper context for expecting answers to prayer)
- **Ephesians 6:18** (when and how to pray)
- **Philippians 4:4-7** (how to experience joy and peace through prayer)
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** (how to approach God in prayer)
- **James 1:5-8** (how to approach God in prayer)
- **James 4:3** (how not to pray, and an explanation of unanswered prayer)
- **1 John 3:19-24** (how to be confident in prayer)

Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen?

2. What is your biggest worry? Why?

3. When do you sense being most alive? Why?



The results of prayer:

- **Isaiah 30:19-22** (God's responsiveness to us; divine guidance)
- **Jeremiah 29:12-13** (God's responsiveness to us)
- **Matthew 18:19-20** (what happens when we pray in community)
- **1 John 1:9** (the prayer of confession)

QUESTIONS

- 1.** The life that is pleasing to God does not come by gritting our teeth, but by falling in love with Him. Prayer is not about techniques, definitions, or methods. It is about a hilarious, wonderful, head-over-heels love relationship that God longs to have with each of us. What is your reaction to that statement?
 - 2.** What are your greatest struggles or disappointments in prayer?
 - 3.** What has helped you to grow the most in your prayer life?
 - 4.** The very heart of God is an open wound of love, desirous of an intimate relationship with each of us. And prayer is the primary way for us to have this intimate relationship with Him and to enjoy this "with-God" life. A common misconception about prayer is that it mainly involves asking for things from God. How is prayer so much more than asking for things?
 - 5.** To pray is to change. Have you experienced this in your own life?
 - 6.** What has your practice of prayer been teaching you about God? About yourself? About your relationships?
 - 7.** "This morning, as I came from the train and prayed for all the people on the street, I felt new energy surge into me. What it does to all of them to receive that instant prayer I may never know. What it does for me is electrical. It drives out fatigue and thrills one with eager power. How curious one's mind feels thus encircling others. Is Jesus like that?"
-Frank Laubach
- Prayer is one of the most loving things we can do for another person. Intercessory prayer occurs when we love people enough to desire far more for them than we have the power to give, and this desire leads us to pray for them. What has been your experience in interceding on the behalf of others in prayer? What have been some of your challenges and successes?
- 8.** Take time to lift up one another and those who don't know Christ in prayer. Feel free to take a few minutes of silence and invite the Holy Spirit to direct how and for whom you should pray.

God bless,

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